

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

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SUBJECT: FCDA - STATUS REPORT AND RDP/USGS PROJECT FEDERAL
CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (FCDA)

REF: LAGOS 10176

1. JELLEY AND MEPD DIRECTOR CONGER CALLED ON KOKO
AUGUST 18. IN RESPONSE TO A QUERY ABOUT THE USGS PROJECT,
KOKO SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN PERSUADED NOT TO SEND THE
PROMISED LETTER TO EMBASSY UNTIL THE AMADU BELLO
UNIVERSITY TEAM HAD APPROVED USGS PARTICIPATION. HE
WOULD CONSULT THE TEAM IN THE FOLLOWING WEEK.

2. KOKO SAID THE FCDA HAD DIVIDED THE PROJECT INTO
SEVEN INFRASTRUCTURAL AREAS FOR PURPOSES OF AWARDED
CONTRACTS. FOR EACH AREA, SIX NIGERIAN AND SIX FOREIGN
FIRMS HAD BEEN DESIGNATED, SELECTED FROM A MASTER LIST
OF APPROVED CONTRACTORS DRAWN UP BY THE FCDA IN JUNE.
SOME SPECIFIC PROJECT AWARDS HAD BEEN MADE IN JULY,
E.G., BECHTEL. PARTICIPATION OF ONE OR MORE NIGERIAN
CONTRACTORS WOULD BE REQUIRED ON EACH PROJECT.

3. THE MASTER LIST OF CONTRACTORS IS COMPOSED OF
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THREE GROUPS: THOSE FIRMS TO BE OFFERED WORK IM-
MEDIATELY; THOSE ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE CONTRACTS AS
THE PROJECT DEVELOPS; AND THOSE ON STANDBY, WHO MIGHT
BE OFFERED WORK BEFORE 1986. THOSE FIRMS WHICH HAD
NOT RECEIVED NOTIFICATION OF APPROVED STATUS FROM
THE FCDA COULD CONSIDER THEMSELVES UNSUCCESSFUL. THE
FCDA WOULD NOT ADVERTISE FOR PROPOSALS IN FUTURE;

NOR WOULD IT ACCEPT PROPOSALS FROM NEW FIRMS. AS NEEDS AROSE, THE FCDA WOULD INVITE PROPOSALS FROM APPROVED FIRMS ON MASTER LIST.

4. WE ASKED KOKO FOR A COPY OF THE MASTER LIST TO ENABLE US TO RESPOND TO INQUIRIES FROM UNSUCCESSFUL U.S. FIRMS. KOKO AGREED, RELUCTANTLY, TO SUPPLY A LIST OF APPROVED U.S. FIRMS, AFTER FURTHER DECISIONS HAD BEEN MADE.

5. IN PASSING, WE ASKED KOKO WHAT EXACTLY IPA'S ROLE IS. HE REPLIED THAT IPA IS STILL ONLY A CONSULTANT TO THE FCDA, AND OFFERED NO FURTHER COMMENT.

6. PRIOR TO MEETING WITH KOKO, EMBASSY LEARNED FROM KAISER ENGINEERS REP., JIM TAYLOR, THAT HE HAD TRIED FOR TWO WEEKS TO LEARN FROM FCDA WHETHER KAISER HAD QUALIFIED OR NOT. HE WAS ABLE TO SEE KOKO ON AUGUST 16, AND WAS TOLD THAT SUCCESSFUL FIRMS HAD BEEN NOTIFIED. AS HIS FIRM HAD NOT BEEN NOTIFIED, HE ASKED IF THAT MEANT THAT KAISER COULD NOT EXPECT TO DO ANY BUSINESS WITH FCDA. KOKO REPLIED THAT THAT WAS NOT NECESSARILY THE CASE. TAYLOR LEFT LAGOS IN A STATE OF FRUSTRATION.

7. SUBSEQUENT TO KOKO MEETING, JELLEY WAS TOLD BY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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A LOCAL U.S. ENGINEERING SOURCE THAT FCDA IS OPPOSED TO AWARDED A PROJECT MANAGEMENT CONTRACT TO A FOREIGN FIRM (A CONTRACT BEING SOUGHT BY IPA). INSTEAD, FCDA WILL ATTEMPT TO DEVELOP AN INTERNAL NIGERIAN MANAGEMENT CAPABILITY. THE SOURCE PREDICTED THAT THE RESULT WOULD BE A MESS.

COMMENT:

8. THE USGS PROJECT SEEMS TO BE ON A BACK BURNER.

9. WE INTERPRET KOKO'S REMARKS TO MEAN THAT FCDA INTENDS TO NEGOTIATE, NOT TENDER, FUTURE CONTRACTS WITH FIRMS ON APPROVED MASTER LIST.
WYMAN

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